



CONVERSION TO JUDAISM

The path towards conversion to Judaism is one requiring substantial commitment. Liberal Judaism welcomes all sincere converts to Judaism.

The course, usually lasting at least fifteen months, is administered and validated centrally by Liberal Judaism, but taught locally. An applicant is first interviewed by a Rabbi to ascertain that the motives for conversion are for the sake of embracing the Jewish religion and, in order to assist the applicant to make an informed decision, we insist upon some preliminary reading and experience of Jewish life and worship. Usually the applicant attends services for at least three months before s/he embarks upon a formal course of instruction. The course consists of lessons in the Jewish religion, Jewish history, Jewish literature and the Hebrew language. During the course, the applicant is supported by the Community to gain personal experience of all the Jewish festivals in the annual cycle and to begin to feel themselves as part of a Jewish Community.

When the sponsoring Rabbi is satisfied that a sufficient basis of Jewish knowledge and experience has been acquired, the candidate is asked to submit two essays and then appears before the Rabbinic Board of Liberal Judaism (with three Rabbis sitting). If they are satisfied with the sincerity of the candidate, they sign a certificate indicating their approval. The candidate then has an Admittance Ceremony in their new Community at which the candidate affirms their status as a Jew. The sponsoring Rabbi also signs the certificate. Liberal Judaism strongly recommends circumcision for male converts. If exemption is sought, candidates are required to consult a doctor, preferably a member of the Association of Liberal and Reform Mohalim.

All converts are encouraged to perform the ritual of *Tevilah* (ritual immersion in a *Mikveh*) as a valuable and experiential way to confirm one's change in status.